

Louis Beezer House
306 Logan Blvd.
Llyswen Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5900

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO.
118-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOUIS BEEZER HOUSE

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Location: 306 Logan Blvd.

Date of Erection: 1895

Architects: Michael and Louis Beezer

Description: This side-gable, two-and-a-half-story, brick and shingle house was originally the mirror image of the house at 308 Logan Blvd. (HABS No. PA-5900), the only external difference being that the brick veneer on this house was red instead of yellow. The once-recessed front porch is now enclosed as a foyer, and a full porch extends over what was the terrace. The bay window at the entry was brought forward with the new addition, as were the porch rails and columns, but an elliptical window on the south gable end has been removed. Some of the original rainspouting complete with fanciful gargoyles remains, and this house retains the decorative hip knobs on the crests of the dormers, as well as most of the original interior moldings.

History: When Louis and Michael J. Beezer lost their homes at 306 and 308 (HABS No. PA-5901) Logan Ave. to creditors in 1900, this house went to Mary Milliken of Hollidaysburg, who sold it to Charles Snowberger, a molder, in 1903 for \$3,000. Snowberger sold it for a good profit two years later to Harry Metzgar, another molder. Metzgar also acquired the southwest half of the neighboring lot, and sold the entire parcel to William R. Ramsey in 1921 for \$8,000. In 1919 Ramsey was one of the proprietors of the Altoona Brewing Company. By 1925 he was president and treasurer of a business called Life Staff Products Company. Jeanette Silverman acquired the house in 1924 just prior to her marriage to Nathan S. Freedman, who with his brother, Charles, operated the Children's Specialty Shop. Charles also lived with the couple. In 1942, Nicolas Scardino, a foreman at Puritan Knitting Mills, and his wife, Angelina, bought the property from the bank that foreclosed on the Freedmans in 1935. The Scardinos made it their home for nearly twenty-two years. The house has changed hands six times since the Scardinos sold it in 1964. Through the 1970s it had resident owners, but for ten years it has been used primarily as a rental property.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Beezer Brothers' catalogs: 1897, 1899. Deed books: 106/503, 146/182, 162/308, 158/395, 205/16, 205/176, 289/650, 305/392, 318/146, 426/379, 473/198, 821/477, 891/85, 1001/108, 1033/133, 1041/673, 1119/846.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also information on the Michael J. Beezer House (HABS No. PA-5901) and additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.